

October 20th, 2011

Representative Berger, Senator LeBeau, Representative Zalaski, Senator Prague, and members of the Commerce and Labor Committees,

As you work to craft bipartisan legislation for the upcoming special session on jobs, we are aware that the Department of Labor's Apprenticeship Program may be a topic of discussion. The trades, both union and non-union, have always worked diligently to support the Apprenticeship Program and feel it is a program that is extremely valuable to their industries. While we do not know for sure whether any changes to the Apprenticeship Program are being seriously considered, we wanted to take the opportunity to reinforce our support for the Apprenticeship Program as it is run by the Department of Labor. Additionally, if changes to the program are discussed, either in current deliberations regarding the jobs package or in the future, we hope you can see the trades as a resource to assist in any efforts to better Connecticut's workforce.

The only specifics we have seen proposed at this point were those contained in the Republican's Jobs Package. Of those, we would support the following:

- *Lowering the initial renewal registration fees.
- *Improving the linkage with the Connecticut Vocational Technical High Schools to increase participation.
- *Increasing the maximum amount of tax credits allowed under the Manufacturing and Construction Apprenticeship Tax Credit programs.
- *Expanding the trades that the tax credits are available for to include all apprenticeable trades.
- *Creating a new tax credit program which will provide a significant reduction in Corporate Tax liability for any employer who hires and apprentice full-time upon their completion of the apprenticeship program.

We thank you for your continued support for the Apprenticeship Program and we hope to continue to work collaboratively on efforts to foster the growth of our state's workforce.

Sincerely,

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Independent Electrical Contractors of New England
Operating Engineers Local 478
Connecticut State Building Trades
Connecticut Heating and Cooling Contractors Association
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc
NERCC, CT
Connecticut Alarm and Systems Integrators Association

"Registered apprenticeship programs are operated by private industry - employer or labor/management sponsors. Program sponsors pay virtually all training costs as well as progressively increasing wages to their apprentices. Registered apprenticeship programs range from one to six or more years in length. For the apprentice, this translates into an "industry scholarship" worth \$40,000 to \$150,000. Since the content of the training program is determined by industry needs, apprenticeship produces workers with high demand skills." -CT Department of Labor website